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11 April 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 11 April 1984 briefing for Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Staff Members on Soviet Space Program

1. On 11 April 1984, SSCI staff members were briefed on the Soviet space program by Larry Gershwin, National Intelligence Office for Strategic Programs, [redacted] Chief, Arms Control Intelligence Staff, Directorate of Intelligence (DDI), and [redacted] Office of Scientific and Weapons Research, DDI. SSCI staff members present included Eugene Iwanciw, Tom Connolly, Joe Meyer, Tom Blau, and Ed Levine. Chris Lay, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, also attended. No transcript was taken. [redacted]

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2. In the three-hour briefing, Mr. Gershwin covered much of the material contained in NIE 11-1-83, The Soviet Space Program. He discussed the Soviet uses of space, the military orientation of Moscow's programs, potential wartime uses of Soviet space systems, and the likelihood of Soviet interference with US space systems. Dr. Gershwin also covered current limited Soviet anti-satellite (ASAT) capabilities. In terms of the future, he discussed the development of electronic warfare as a threat to US space systems.

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3. At the conclusion of the presentation, there was a general discussion about Soviet proposals for arms control in space and the question of verification. It was concluded that the Soviets are primarily interested in hindering US space programs, including US plans for space-based ballistic missile defense.

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